

# **Life in the FASTLANE:** *Rules of the Road for Grantsmanship*



**Diane M. Witt, Ph.D.**

*[www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)*





U.S. President

Office of  
Management  
and Budget

**Science Advisor**  
Office of Science and  
Technology Policy

Other boards,  
councils, etc.

## *Major Departments*

Agriculture

Health and  
Human Services

Interior

Transportation

Defense

Energy

Commerce

**NIH**

## *Independent Agencies*



National  
Aeronautic  
and Space  
Administration

Environmental  
Protection  
Agency

Smithsonian  
Institution

Nuclear  
Regulatory  
Commission

Other  
agencies





# NIH Mission

---

**NIH is the steward of medical and behavioral research for the Nation. Its mission is science in pursuit of fundamental knowledge about nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.**





# NSF Vision

*Enabling the nation's future  
through discovery, learning  
and innovation.*



# NSF's Strategic Goals

- Ideas - *Discovery across frontiers and connections in service to society*
- People - *A diverse, internationally competitive and globally-engaged workforce*
- Tools - *Accessible, state-of-the-art information bases and shared tools*



# National Science Foundation

- Supports education and training at all levels
- Promotes public understanding of science, engineering and math
- Ensures a world-class science, engineering and technology workforce for the U.S.



# Proposal Submission



**NSF**

- Online FastLane
- 15 Pages
- 2 Target Dates
- Suggested Reviewers
  - Names & addresses
  - Email addresses



**NIH**

- mail
- 25 Pages
- 3 Deadlines



# Review System

---

**NSF**

**NIH**

- **Advisory Panels**
- **Ad Hoc Reviews**

- **Study Sections**





# NSF in a Nutshell

- Independent Agency
- Supports basic research & education
- Uses grant mechanism
- Low overhead; highly automated
- Discipline-based structure
- Cross-disciplinary mechanisms
- Use of Rotators/IPAs
- National Science Board





## National Science Board

Office of  
Inspector  
General



## National Science Foundation

Director Deputy Director

### *Office of the Director*

- Legislative & Public Affairs
- Equal Opportunity Programs
- General Counsel
- Integrative Activities
- Polar Programs

### *Directorates*

- Biological Sciences
- Computer & Information Science & Engineering
- Education & Human Resources
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Mathematical & Physical Sciences
- Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences

### *Offices*

- Budget, Finance & Award Management
- Information & Resource Management



# The "New Look"



**National Science Foundation**  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

SEARCH

NSF Web Site

HOME | FUNDING | AWARDS | DISCOVERIES | NEWS | PUBLICATIONS | STATISTICS | ABOUT | FastLane

PEOPLE & SOCIETY  
An Overview of NSF Research



A New Camera for  
Extrasolar Planets

Earthquake & Tsunami  
Disaster Research

When Robots Are  
Lifelike

➔ For the Research & Education Community

➔ Find Funding Opportunities

Program Areas  
Select One

Quick Links  
Select One

Specialized Information for  
Select One

About NSF

General Information About NSF

View Staff Directory

Search Staff Directory

Career Opportunities

Contracting Opportunities

Visit NSF

NSF Organizations

MyNSF

Sign up for email alerts & more

Latest News

[T. rex Fossil Yields Soft Tissue](#)  
Released March 25, 2005

[Octopus Uses Two Arms to "Walk Away" from Trouble](#)  
Released March 24, 2005

[Sediments in Northern Gulf of Mexico Not Right for Methane Gas Hydrate Formation](#)  
Released March 24, 2005

Now Showing: Film, TV, Museums and More

[The Elegant Universe](#)  
A three-hour NOVA miniseries exploring one of the most ambitious and exciting theories ever proposed -- one that may be the long-sought "theory of everything," which eluded even Einstein.

Events Calendar

See All

Site Features

➔ NSF at a Glance

News

For the News Media

Special Reports

Discoveries from NSF Research

Research Overviews

Speeches & Lectures

Multimedia Gallery

NSF & Congress

Classroom Resources

Priority Areas

Science and Engineering Statistics

Search NSF Awards

Need Help?

Help Center

Our New Design

See All



# Serving R&E Folks As Usual...

The image shows the NSF website homepage with the following elements:

- Header:** NSF logo, "National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN", and a search bar.
- Navigation Bar:** Links for HOME, FUNDING, AWARDS, DISCOVERIES, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, STATISTICS, ABOUT, and FastLane.
- Main Content Area:** A row of four featured items: "PEOPLE & SOCIETY: An Overview of NSF Research" (with a fossil image), "A New Camera for Extrasolar Planets" (with a planet image), "Earthquake & Tsunami Disaster Research" (with a map and dates 12/26/04 and 03/28/05), and "When Robots Are Lifelike" (with a robot image).
- Left Sidebar:** Contains a red circle around the "For the Research & Education Community" link, followed by "Find Funding Opportunities", "Program Areas" (with a dropdown), "Quick Links" (with a dropdown), "Specialized Information for" (with a dropdown), "About NSF", "General Information About NSF", "View Staff Directory", "Search Staff Directory" (with a search box), "Career Opportunities", "Contracting Opportunities", "Visit NSF", and "NSF Organizations" (with a dropdown).
- Right Sidebar:** Contains "Site Features" with links to "NSF at a Glance", "News", "For the News Media", "Special Reports", "Discoveries from NSF Research", "Research Overviews", "Speeches & Lectures", "Multimedia Gallery", "NSF & Congress", "Classroom Resources", "Priority Areas", "Science and Engineering Statistics", "Search NSF Awards", and "Need Help?".
- Center Content:** A "Latest News" section with three items: "T. rex Fossil Yields Soft Tissue" (Released March 25, 2005), "Octopus Uses Two Arms to 'Walk Away' from Trouble" (Released March 24, 2005), and "Sediments in Northern Gulf of Mexico Not Right for Methane Gas Hydrate Formation" (Released March 24, 2005). Below this is a "Now Showing: Film, TV, Museums and More" section with a link to "The Elegant Universe" (A three-hour NOVA miniseries).

# ...But Now, the Public Too

The image shows a screenshot of the National Science Foundation (NSF) website. A large red circle is drawn around the main content area, which includes the header, navigation menu, and several featured articles. The header features the NSF logo and the tagline "WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". The navigation menu includes links for HOME, FUNDING, AWARDS, DISCOVERIES, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, STATISTICS, ABOUT, and FastLane. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with links for "For the Research & Education Community", "Find Funding Opportunities", "Quick Links", "Specialized Information for", "About NSF", "General Information About NSF", "View Staff Directory", "Search Staff Directory", "Career Opportunities", "Contracting Opportunities", "Visit NSF", and "NSF Organizations". The main content area features a "PEOPLE & SOCIETY" section with an overview of NSF research, followed by a "Latest News" section with three articles: "T. rex Fossil Yields Soft Tissue", "Octopus Uses Two Arms to 'Walk Away' from Trouble", and "Sediments in Northern Gulf of Mexico Not Right for Methane Gas Hydrate Formation". The "Latest News" section also includes a "Now Showing: Film, TV, Museums and More" section with a link to "The Elegant Universe". The right sidebar contains a "Site Features" section with links to "NSF at a Glance", "New", "For the News Media", "Special Reports", "Discoveries from NSF Research", "Research Overviews", "Speeches & Lectures", "Multimedia Gallery", "NSF & Congress", "Classroom Resources", "Priority Areas", "Science and Engineering Statistics", and "Search NSF Awards".

**National Science Foundation**  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

SEARCH  
NSF Web Site

HOME | FUNDING | AWARDS | DISCOVERIES | NEWS | PUBLICATIONS | STATISTICS | ABOUT | FastLane

**PEOPLE & SOCIETY**  
An Overview of NSF Research

**Latest News**

- T. rex Fossil Yields Soft Tissue**  
Released March 25, 2005
- Octopus Uses Two Arms to "Walk Away" from Trouble**  
Released March 24, 2005
- Sediments in Northern Gulf of Mexico Not Right for Methane Gas Hydrate Formation**  
Released March 24, 2005

**Now Showing: Film, TV, Museums and More**

- The Elegant Universe**  
A three-hour NOVA miniseries exploring one of the most ambitious and exciting theories ever proposed -- one that may be the long-sought "theory of everything," which eluded even Einstein.

**Site Features**

- NSF at a Glance
- New
- For the News Media
- Special Reports
- Discoveries from NSF Research
- Research Overviews
- Speeches & Lectures
- Multimedia Gallery
- NSF & Congress
- Classroom Resources
- Priority Areas
- Science and Engineering Statistics
- Search NSF Awards

# News and Discoveries

A.K.A. Success Stories



The screenshot shows the National Science Foundation (NSF) website. The header includes the NSF logo, the text "National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN", and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME | FUNDING | AWARDS | DISCOVERIES | NEWS | PUBLICATIONS | STATISTICS | ABOUT | FastLane. The main content area features a grid of four featured stories: "PEOPLE & SOCIETY: An Overview of NSF Research" (with a skull image), "A New Camera for Extrasolar Planets" (with a planet image), "Earthquake & Tsunami Disaster Research" (with a map and dates 12/26/04 and 03/28/05), and "When Robots Are Lifelike" (with a robot image). Below this grid is a "Latest News" section with three items: "T. rex Fossil Yields Soft Tissue" (Released March 25, 2005), "Octopus Uses Two Arms to 'Walk Away' from Trouble" (Released March 24, 2005), and "Sediments in Northern Gulf of Mexico Not Right for Methane Gas Hydrate Formation" (Released March 24, 2005). A red circle highlights the "Latest News" section. To the right of the "Latest News" section is a "Site Features" sidebar with links: "NSF at a Glance", "News" (circled in red), "For the News Media", "Special Reports", "Discoveries from NSF Research" (circled in red), "Research Overviews", "Speeches & Lectures", "Multimedia Gallery", "NSF & Congress", "Classroom Resources", "Priority Areas", "Science and Engineering Statistics", "Search NSF Awards", and "Need Help?". On the left side of the page, there is a "For the Research & Education Community" section with links to "Find Funding Opportunities", "Quick Links", "Specialized Information for", "About NSF", "General Information About NSF", "View Staff Directory", "Search Staff Directory", "Career Opportunities", "Contracting Opportunities", "Visit NSF", and "NSF Organizations".

**National Science Foundation**  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

SEARCH  
NSF Web Site

HOME | FUNDING | AWARDS | DISCOVERIES | NEWS | PUBLICATIONS | STATISTICS | ABOUT | FastLane

PEOPLE & SOCIETY  
An Overview of NSF Research

A New Camera for Extrasolar Planets

Earthquake & Tsunami Disaster Research  
12/26/04  
03/28/05

When Robots Are Lifelike

**For the Research & Education Community**

Find Funding Opportunities

Program Areas  
Select One

Quick Links  
Select One

Specialized Information for  
Select One

About NSF

General Information About NSF  
View Staff Directory  
Search Staff Directory

Career Opportunities  
Contracting Opportunities  
Visit NSF  
NSF Organizations

**Latest News**

**T. rex Fossil Yields Soft Tissue**  
Released March 25, 2005

**Octopus Uses Two Arms to "Walk Away" from Trouble**  
Released March 24, 2005

**Sediments in Northern Gulf of Mexico Not Right for Methane Gas Hydrate Formation**  
Released March 24, 2005

**Site Features**

NSF at a Glance

News

For the News Media

Special Reports

Discoveries from NSF Research

Research Overviews

Speeches & Lectures

Multimedia Gallery

NSF & Congress

Classroom Resources

Priority Areas

Science and Engineering Statistics

Search NSF Awards

Need Help?

**Now Showing: Film, TV, Museums and More**

NSF supports great television, museum exhibits, breathtaking IMAX films, and compelling radio.

**The Elegant Universe**  
A three-hour NOVA miniseries exploring one of the most ambitious and exciting theories ever proposed -- one that may be the long-sought "theory of everything," which eluded even Einstein.

# ***Division of Integrative Organismal Biology (IOB)***

## **CLUSTERS:**

**Behavioral Systems**

**Developmental Systems**

**Environmental & Structural Systems**

**Functional & Regulatory Systems**



*NSF invests in the best ideas from the most capable people, determined by competitive merit review.*

## **Merit Review Criteria**

- **Intellectual merit**
- **Broader impacts**





# **Criterion 1:**

## ***Intellectual Merit***

---

- **Advancing knowledge and understanding within and across fields**
- **PI Qualifications**
- **Creativity and originality**
- **Conceptualization and organization**
- **Resources**



# **Criterion 2:**

## ***Broader Impacts***

- **Discovery while promoting teaching and training**
- **Underrepresented groups**
- **Infrastructure for research and education**
- **Scientific and technological understanding through dissemination**
- **Benefits to society**



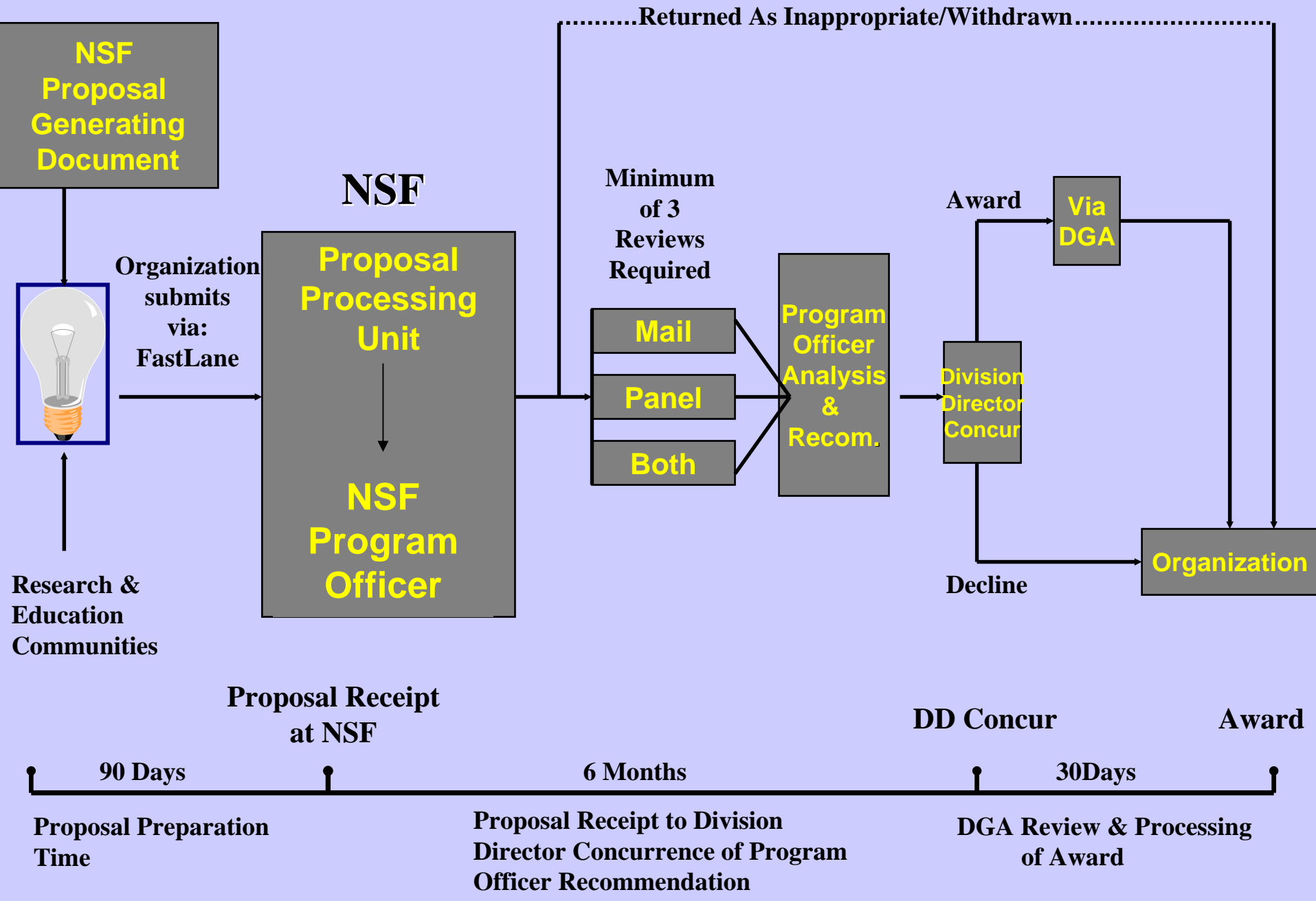
# NSF Funding Decisions

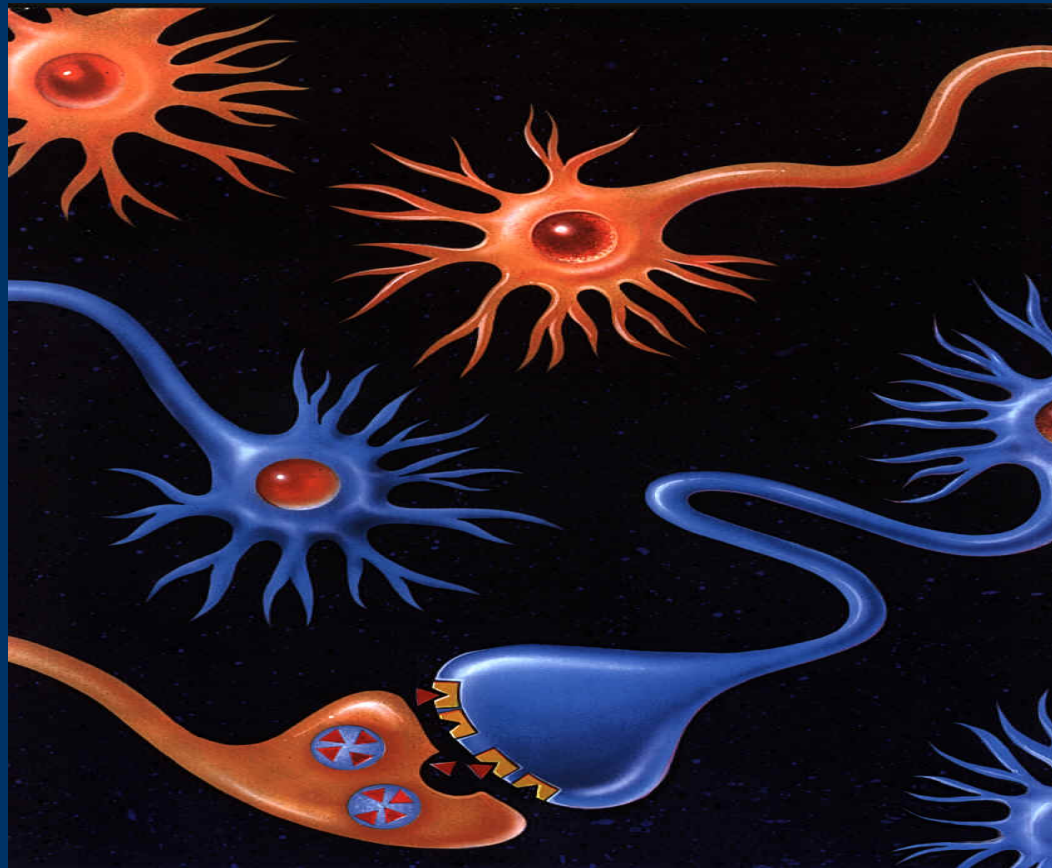
---

- **Program Directors**
  - High Impact
  - PI Career status
  - Program portfolio
  - PI's other support
  - Impact on Institution/State
  - Diversity & Educational Impact
  - Programmatic Consideration
  - Launching vs. Maintaining



# NSF Proposal & Award Process & Timeline





***Presentation prepared by:***

**Elizabeth Bell**

Program & Technology Analyst

**Anuradha Singh**

Science Assistant

**Division of Integrative Organismal Biology**



**BOOTH 839**



The image features a vibrant, abstract, and symmetrical pattern that resembles a stylized flower or a nebula. The pattern is composed of numerous overlapping, translucent, swirling bands of color. The color palette is rich and varied, including deep reds, magentas, purples, blues, greens, yellows, and oranges. These colors are arranged in concentric, swirling layers that radiate from a central point. In the very center of the image is a dark, circular, textured area that looks like a cross-section of a planet or a celestial body. Overlaid on this central dark circle is the text "THANK YOU" in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The entire composition is set against a solid black background, which makes the colorful, glowing pattern stand out prominently. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and visual harmony.